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Editor's Notes

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Editors' Notes

Since the *North Dakota Law Review* published its last symposium on agriculture and the law in 1968 so little has been published concerning this subject that the Board of Editors decided a second such work would have merit.

This symposium comes at a time of economic change in the agricultural industry. The recent shift from unwanted surpluses to unprecedented demands has brought the American farmer to the forefront of national attention and controversy. Food price increases, the sale of wheat to Russia, and the farm bill controversy are just a few of the events that have made headlines across the country.

The *Review* is honored for the foreword by Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz and the special introduction by Senator Milton Young of North Dakota. The participation of Secretary Butz and Senator Young exemplifies the uniqueness of this undertaking. The materials for this symposium have conveniently been divided into federal and non-federal divisions. The traditional view that farming is the last hallmark of true free enterprise suffers a harsh setback when one reads the articles in this issue; it becomes clear that agriculture is indeed a heavily regulated industry.

Professor Donald Levi, Pro-

fessor of Agricultural Law and Associate Research Economist at Texas A & M University, and Professor Leroy Rogers, Professor of Agricultural Economics at Washington State University, have conducted a study of the extent to which farmers participate in self-employment retirement programs. Their article is a detailed analysis of their findings and should be of special interest to tax and estate planners. A review of Professor Levi's book, *Agricultural Law*, is contained in the second issue of the symposium.

Colorado Congressman James Johnson's article summarizes the lobbying activity, the controversy, and the Congressional compromising associated with the passage of the 1973 Farm Bill. This article, which is both informative and amusing, serves as an excellent introduction to the following two articles which deal extensively with the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973. Mr. Claude Coffman, Deputy Counsel for the Department of Agriculture, presents an in depth study of this landmark legislation. Dr. Quentin West, Administrator of the Economic Research Service in the Department of Agriculture, and two administrative assistants, Wayne Rasmussen and Gladys Baker, have written an economic analysis of the farm bill. The Board of Editors is

proud to have such distinguished persons present their views.

In the second issue, James Bailey and James Dean outline a new and innovative proposal to provide a method by which farmers may decrease their investment in machinery while providing an opportunity to utilize newer equipment through leasing. Their proposals may serve as a model for the development of similar financing programs for the state's agricultural industry.

Professor Robert Beck, in continuing his fine contributions to the *Law Review*, has examined North Dakota's noxious weed control legislation.

The Honorable Bruce Hagen, North Dakota Public Service Commissioner, has presented a detailed analysis of the North Dakota strip mining reclamation law. Strip mining will have a profound effect on a large area of farm and ranch lands in Western North Dakota; if these lands are not properly reclaimed, their future use by the agricultural community could be jeopardized.

Earl Stewart, Director of the

Little Missouri Grasslands Study, has submitted an essay on the nature and purpose of the study and its possible impact on the future development of Southwestern North Dakota.

Student articles relating to agriculture includes notes dealing with migrant farm workers and highway land condemnation. There is also an extensive environmental impact study of the Garrison Diversion Project.

In addition to Professor Levi's book on *Agricultural Law*, there are book reviews of John Cartwright's *Farm and Ranch Real Estate Law* and Jerome Tweton's *Marquis De Mores*.

This symposium was originally planned for the winter issue but because of the overwhelming response to solicitations this is a two issue symposium. Increased printing costs and an austere budget have dictated this result. Consequently, the Indian Law Symposium, scheduled as the summer issue, will be published as the fall issue of Volume 51.

OWEN L. ANDERSON
Symposium Editor